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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES GRANT FUNDING
FOR STARR COUNTY

RIO GRANDE CITY, TEXAS, October 21, 2005--Bryan Daniel, State Director, USDA Rural Development today announced that Starr County received a $129,315 Housing Preservation Grant (HPG). The project will provide assistance to 30 very low and low-income families located in Starr County. The project will promote the health, safety, and well being of the homeowner, playing a significant role in neighborhood rehabilitation. To highlight this event, a ceremonial check will be presented to the Honorable Eloy Vera, Starr County Judge.

"USDA Rural Development is very pleased to be able to provide housing rehabilitation funding for rural Texans," said Daniel. "It is our goal to ensure rural residents are afforded an opportunity to live in decent housing that meets basic health and safety standards and provides the benefits of energy efficient features."

USDA Rural Development housing programs are designed to strengthen the economy and infrastructure of rural areas. Through its support of the growth and development of communities, USDA Rural Development works to improve the quality of life in rural America.

The purpose of the HPG program is to promote continued economic development in rural communities by making grants to sponsoring organizations for the repair or rehabilitation of low and very-low income housing. Grants are competitive and are made available in areas where there is a concentration of need. For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact the USDA Rural Development local office in Rio Grande City at (956) 487-5576, ext. 4 or visit our website on http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx.

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